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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **YEDA RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CO. LTD.** [IL/IL]; at the Weizmann Institute of Science, P.O. Box 95, 76100 Rehovot (IL).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **GRONER, Yoram** [IL/IL]; 7 Meonot Shine, The Weizmann Institute of Science, 76100 Rehovot (IL). **BETTOUN, David** [FR/US]; 554 Manayunk Road, Merion Station, PA 19066 (US).
- (74) Agent: **WEBB, Cynthia**; Webb & Associates, P.O. Box 2189, 76121 Rehovot (IL).
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(54) Title: METHODS FOR EVALUATING GENETIC SUSCEPTIBILITY AND THERAPY FOR CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY DISEASES

(57) Abstract: The invention discloses a knockout mouse that is homozygous for a RUNX3 null allele, as a novel model for chronic inflammatory disease. The present invention provides methods for treating T cell-related inflammatory conditions by cell therapy, gene therapy or antisense for up regulating or down regulating RUNX3. The invention further relates to methods of diagnosing and assessing predisposition to chronic inflammatory diseases. The present invention further provides methods for testing agents for effectiveness in treating and/or preventing diseases associated with chronic inflammatory or autoimmune conditions.

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